

REMARKS

Claims 3-12, 14-21, and 25-31 are pending in the application. Claims 23 and 24 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 13, and 22 have been canceled, new claims 26-31 have been added, and claims 3-9, 11, 12, 14, and 18-21 have been amended. New claim 25 corresponds to claim 2 rewritten in independent form, new claim 26 corresponds to claim 13 rewritten in independent form, and new claim 27 corresponds to claim 22 with the incorporation of the limitations of claim 2. The amendments to claims 3-9, 11, 12, 14, and 18-21 have been made to correct dependencies due to cancellation of claims 1, 2, and 13. Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's determination of patentable subject matter in claims 2-5 and 13-19.

Applicant believes the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 6-12, 20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,971,471 to Sloan. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled and replaced with new claim 25 that corresponds to claim 2 written in independent form, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claims 6-12 and 20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 25 and are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 25 is allowable.

Claim 22 has been canceled and replaced with new claim 27 that incorporates the limitations of claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable in the Office Action. It therefore follows that claim 27 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 2.

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 25 and believed to be allowable with claim 25 for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 25.

New claims 28-31 depend from claim 27 and further define the thermal storage body. These claims are believed to be patentable over Sloan for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 27.

If there are any outstanding issues which the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned to resolve these issues. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 19, 2007

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